



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-0053)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña, Vice Chairperson
Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner
Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and
Commissioner Maxine Russell M.A. M.S.

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill and Commissioner Susan Burton

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa, Nyla Jefferson, Jenny Kimbell (14-0054)

Call to Order. (13-5587)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the December 11, 2013 Minutes. (13-5805)

**On motion of Commissioner Barbara Bigby, seconded by Commissioner
Donald S. Andrews and unanimously carried, the minutes of
December 11, 2013 were approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department Representatives Reports for December 18, 2013.

- Department of Auditor-Controller (AC)
 - Monthly Report
- Department of Mental Health (MHD)
 - Monthly Report
- Internal Services Department (ISD)
 - Monthly Report
- Sheriff's Department (SD)
 - Monthly Report
 - Discussion regarding the inspection and findings at Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff Station.
- Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
 - Monthly Report
 - Discussion regarding the inspection and findings at Careprovider Organization Foundation (Children & Family Serv I).
- Probation Department (PD)
 - Monthly Report (13-5814)

Sheriff Department (SD) Report

Captain Anselmo Gonzalez, SD, representing Commander Ralph Ornelas, reported that the Commissioners unsatisfactory findings at Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff Station have been corrected, the trustee's dorm and the graffiti has been painted. Commissioner Andrews stated at the second inspection he and Chairperson Montaña saw improvements, but not at the level of the other facilities.

Captain Gonzalez also reported that the Sheriff Department's dual track promotion system for the custody division has the first band of 16 applicants to interview beginning in January 2014.

Commander Samuel Ducas, SD, representing the Courthouses, indicated that he was aware that Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Michael Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse Branch. Chairperson Montaña added that the courthouse was excellent. Commander Ducas also reported that the Long Beach Courthouse Branch is over automated which is slowing down processes that are now being corrected. Overall he has noticed that the attitude of the public has improved because people are no longer waiting in long lines.

Auditor Controller's (AC) Report

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report for the month of November 2013 as follows:

8 Total calls

- Youth callers = 6
- Adult callers = 2

10 Calls relating to Collaboration Contacts/Referrals

- 3 = Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) – Social Worker
- 1 = DCFS Child Protection Hotline
- 3 = Group Home
- 3 = General Information

2 Personal Rights

- 1 = Clothing (Children Are Our Future)
- 1 = Health/Med., Dental, Psych Care (Vista Del Mar)

2 Personal

- 2 = Physical Abuse/Harm (McKinley, Crittenton)

21 Total Visits/Outreach

- Children Are Our Future (6 sites)
- Children's Homes of Southern California (5 sites)
- Counseling and Research Associate (2 sites)
- Fleming and Barnes (1 site)
- Heritage (1 site)
- Vista Del Mar (1 site)
- Human Services Network (1 site)
- Olive Crest (1 site)
- Phoenix House (1 site)
- T&T Group Home (1 site)
- Turmont Home for Boys (1 site)

Ms. Day reported that out of the 21 outreach visits, Children Are Our Future (CAOF) expressed the most concerns. She met with the youth at CAOF's main facility three days in a row. The youth complained about their allowances, living conditions, mattresses, and the laundry. Ms. Day

reported her findings to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (PD). She plans to visit CAOF Saticoy and West Hills homes. Commissioner Bigby stated that CAOF, in the last few months, have made improvements which reduce the number of return visits.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) Report

DMH had no representation at this meeting (absence excused).

Internal Services Department (ISD) Report

ISD had no representation at this meeting (absence excused). However, an email from Brian Lear, ISD Business Meeting Representative, was distributed indicating improvements had been made to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

Probation Department (PD) Report

PD had no representation at this meeting (absence excused). Staff distributed the PD's Reporting for the month of November 2013 to the Commissioners.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Report

Ms. Rhonda David-Shirley, DCFS, Out-of-Home Care Management Division, Group Home Performance Management, reported that her division is reorganizing, i.e. the referrals will be handled by the investigation division; another division will handle the monitoring reports and her division will follow-up with any complaints or discrepancies. She stated that changes in her section will provide the opportunity to make more frequent and timely visits. She also stated that a representative from the investigation division may attend the Commission meeting to report the referrals.

Ms. David-Shirley reported the following:

11 Closed Referrals from November 20 – December 17, 2013

- 5 = General neglect, 2 unfounded, 1 evaluated out, 2 inconclusive
- 3 = Physical abuse, 1 unfounded, 1 evaluated out, 1 inconclusive

- 2 = Sexual abuse, 2 unfounded
- 1 = Child at risk, 1 inconclusive

She also reported on the number of youth that were Absent Without Leave (AWOL) during the following reporting periods:

- From November 20- 30, 2013
 - o 170
- From December 1-17, 2013
 - o 309

In response to Vice Chairperson Bacio's question, Ms. David-Shirley reported that Ettie Lee Home (John Eccles Home) has been closed.

Commissioner Bigby reported that the group home, Careprovider Organization Foundation (Careprovider Children & Family Service 1), after issuing a corrective action report, the provider has yet to take any corrective action in making repairs to the floors in the kitchen and in the family room. Ms. David-Shirley reported that she will make a follow-up inspection.

In response to Commissioner Grills question, Ms. David-Shirley reported that during the monitoring period of a group home, the youth are interviewed individually to determine their interest. Then the group is asked to report to DCFS on how they plan to address those interests. Ms. David-Shirley stated that a training session is being prepared for the group home owners that will include providing a resource roster of activities that the youth can be involved in. She asked if the Commission knew of any resources, she would gladly pass them on to the group home owners. Ms. David-Shirley further stated that now that her division responsibilities have changed, they can do a better job monitoring the activities of the group homes monthly if needed and quarterly as scheduled.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS](#)

3. Chairperson's Report on various items for December 18, 2013. (13-5806)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles:

Los Angeles Times:

- How the Bad Apples Got Hired (December 17, 2013)

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- **On the Bus, Goals in Sight (December 18, 2013)**
 - **Sheriff Aide Pledges Swift Hiring Fixes (December 18, 2013)**
 - **Foster Children Put at Risk (December 18, 2013)**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for December 18, 2013. (13-5807)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$805.96; however, the expense of approximately \$230.00 for the Holiday Gathering Luncheon held on December 11, 2013 and the deposits to be made will change the balance.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for December 18, 2013. (13-5808)

There was no report presented.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on December 18, 2013. (13-5809)

In Compliance:

- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Heritage Group Homes #2, Page 20, #4, on December 12, 2013.**

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from December 12, 2013 to December 17, 2013. (13-5898)

During the reporting period, the following Group Home/Facility was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:

- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Children Are Our Future (Chatsworth House), Page 7, #1, on December 13, 2013. Commissioner Bigby reported that the following needed cleaning: the swimming pool; living room couch and the kitchen oven. She also reported that the bathroom in bedroom #3 needs the cold water fixture and drawers repaired as well as the vanity painted. In the hallway bathroom, the toilet seat needs replacing and the hole in the hallway wall need repair. Bedroom #1 needs new bed frames and the dresser drawers needs repair. Bedroom #2 needed a new box spring and bed frames. Largely, all three (3) bedrooms need new carpet. Lastly, the group home needs a computer. The Commissioners are planning to revisit the group home in 30 days.**

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were

reported as being in satisfactory conditions:

- **Chairperson Montañño and Commissioner Andrews visited T&T Home for Boys, Page 39, #1, on December 16, 2013. They reported that the discarded items stored on the side of the house needed to be removed, drainboard tiles required replacing and a cabinet in the kitchen needed repair. Also, the Commissioners would like to share copies of the Sybil Brand Commission 2014 Scholarship Application that will be disseminated in January 2014, to the group home.**
- **Chairperson Montañño and Commissioner Andrews visited the Michael Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse Branch on December 17, 2013. They reported that the facility and staff were excellent.**
- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Heritage Group Homes #2, Page 20, #4, on December 12, 2013. He reported that one of the youth was home on suspension.**

During the reporting period, the following Group Home/Facility was visited, but not inspected:

- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Ettie Lee (John Eccles Home), Page 16, #1, on December 17, 2013 and reported that no one was home. At today's meeting, it was determined that the group home has been closed.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Rancho San Antonio, Page 34, #5, on December 17, 2013 and reported that the group home was hosting a luncheon for a City Councilmen and staff at the time of their visit and was asked if they would conduct the inspection at a later date.**

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-5811)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-5812)

Nyabingi Kuti, Executive Director of the South Los Angeles Reintegration Council, reported that Commissioner Susan Burton invited him to speak to the Commission on the status of the Men's Central Jail. Mr. Kuti proceeded by speaking on the living conditions of general population and the possible violation of human rights. He stated that he plans to lead a community campaign to draw more attention to the problems at Men's Central Jail that he feels is breeding mental health illnesses and a public safety hazard. Mr. Kuti further suggested that the Commission submit a vote of no confidence for the Sheriff to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The Commission empathized with Mr. Kuti and advised him to rally the community to get involved in the election process.

Also, Mr. Kuti along with African American ministers will tour the Men's Central Jail on December 24, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. Commissioners Grills and Russell offered to join Mr. Kuti on the Christmas Eve tour.

Commissioner Grills suggested that the Commission read the publication titled, "Evaluation of the Current and Future Los Angeles County Jail Population," by James Austin to further enhance their knowledge. She further stated that the Commission on Children and Families provided a formal presentation before the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRC) at the December 13, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Grills also informed the BRC about the works of the Commission (SBC) and Janet Teague, BRC Commissioner, offered to attend a Commission meeting with BRC staff to listen to SBC's concerns.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of December 18, 2013. (13-5813)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of December 18, 2013 at 11:45 a.m.